**Objective and Subjective Neighborhood Contexts and Mental Health: The Moderating Roles of Gender and Educational Attainment**

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**Stage of developmen**t: Preliminary analyses (have not started yet)

**Start date**: As soon as possible (Deadline for GSA Late Breaking abstract submission - Aug 18)

Neighborhoods have important implications for mental health. The measurement of neighborhoods in the literature is varied and complex. Broadly, neighborhoods have been measured using objective and subjective constructs. Objective neighborhood constructs consist of spatial and structural assessments and subjective constructs consist of self-reported assessments of a person’s neighborhood environments. The literature tends to focus independently on either one type of assessment, but it can be argued that both types of assessments convey relevant information about individuals’ neighborhoods that may have implications for their mental health. Moreover, the associations between neighborhood and mental health can differ by social status and lead to different levels of neighborhood impact, and in turn, variability in mental health outcomes across certain populations. For instance, there may be gender differences in time spent in neighborhoods, perceptions of the neighborhood environment, and vulnerability to disadvantage and stress (e.g., Barnett et al., 2018; Mair et al., 2010; Stafford et al., 2005). Additionally, personal resources such as educational attainment, may be protective against stress through various pathways, such as higher income and development of mastery (Alegria et al., 2018; Bauldry, 2015; Braveman et al., 2011), and may potentially buffer the adverse mental health effects of neighborhood disadvantage (Diez Roux & Mair, 2010; Thierry et al., 2021). However, only a few studies have examined the moderating effects of gender and educational attainment on the links between both objective and subjective neighborhood assessments on mental health outcomes among early midlife adults. The current study will assess the independent and joint associations of objective (i.e., neighborhood socioeconomic deprivation) and subjective neighborhood characteristics (i.e., individuals’ perceived neighborhood stressors) on anxiety and depression among early midlife adults using data from the Colorado Adoption/Twin Study of Lifespan behavioral development and cognitive aging (CATSLife). The study will also explore the moderating roles of gender and educational attainment. Participants completed measures of demographics, health, and neighborhood environments, and provided their mailing addresses which were geocoded and linked with 2010 Census tract data. To account for non-independence among siblings, we will run multilevel linear regression models to examine these links, controlling for relevant confounding variables (e.g., age, marital status, adolescent mental health). Findings will strengthen measurement specificity of neighborhood indicators and provide important insight into individual-level social factors that may be driving differences in mental health outcomes in adulthood.

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